



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cumberland Island National Seashore
P.O. Box 806
St. Marys, GA 31558



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA



Park News

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



The Mullet Wrapper

The official newsletter of
Cumberland Island National Seashore

June through August 2008



Carnegie automobile used for transport on Cumberland Island circa 1920 (NPS Photo)

Transportation Management Plan

By JOHN FRY

The Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for Cumberland Island’s North End Access and Transportation Management Plan was released on September 10th for a public review and comment period. The plan was mandated in the Cumberland Island Wilderness Boundary Adjustment Act of 2004, which became part of Public Law 108-447 signed in December, 2004. The law excluded the Main Road, North Cut Road, and Plum Orchard Spur from Wilderness designation and directed “that not more than 8 and not less than 5 round trips are made available daily north of the Plum Orchard Spur and the North Cut Road”. The Transportation Management Plan also addresses visitor transportation over the entire island, including the high use areas on the south end. The plan’s EA is being prepared to support NPS compliance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Historic Preservation Act, as well as the Endangered Species Act and other applicable regulations. An EA helps the Park Service determine if the proposed action or alternatives will have any impacts, and if so to what extent. The public review period, which will end on October 15th, is the public’s opportunity to become involved in development

of the Transportation Management Plan. Hardcopies of the EA document will be available for review at Cumberland Island National Seashore offices, libraries in the local area, and NPS offices in the Atlanta area. It will also be available electronically on the Park Service’s Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/cuis>. Comments on the plan can be mailed to the Park, sent online through the PEPC site, or sent via email to CUISTransportation@nps.gov. The Park Service will also be hosting public meetings for the draft EA, with two in the Atlanta area and one in the St. Marys area. The Atlanta sessions will be held at Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site, on the evening of September 23rd and again on the afternoon of September 24th. The St. Marys meeting will be held at the Camden County Library, on the evening of September 30th. At each of the meetings an overview of the plan will be provided and the public will be able to ask questions and submit written comments. Acting Superintendent Charles E. Fenwick remarked, “We understand and appreciate that the public has a great interest in the development of this plan. Public involvement is welcomed and is really critical to the success of planning efforts for the future of Cumberland Island National Seashore.”



First African Baptist Church



Main Road



Plum Orchard



Charlie Fenwick, Acting Superintendent

It is my honor and privilege to serve as the Acting Superintendent for the next 60-90 days. As a historian by training, I often look to the past for inspiration. Revolutionary War Hero, General Nathaniel Greene is connected with the history of this island. Another founding father, Thomas Paine, in his pamphlet Common Sense, once said “We have it in our power to begin the world over again.... The birth-day of a new world is at hand.” I, like Paine, believe that our destiny is in our hands and that everyday can be a new beginning. During my time here, I intend to focus on the park’s mission. I also hope to bring some fresh eyes to park resources and park programs and do what I can to improve both.

I think the theme for my time here at the park could be “change.” The National Park Service is in the process of hiring a new Superintendent for Cumberland Island National Seashore. Soon there will be new leadership and that will surely bring some changes. As you can see from our cover story, the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Transportation Management Plan (TMP) has been released and when implemented that will also bring change to this park. I look forward to meeting many of you at the public meeting on September 30th or perhaps during some of the new and exciting programs that are highlighted on page 6. Please let us know how we are doing. We welcome your input on how we can best serve all of our stakeholders.

Sincerely,

Charlie Fenwick
Acting Superintendent



National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior

Cumberland Island National Seashore
101 Wheeler Street
P.O. Box 806
St. Marys, Georgia 31558
www.nps.gov/cuis
cuis_superintendent@nps.gov

Park Visitor Center:
(912) 882-4336 ext.254
1-877-860-6787 (Reservations)

Park Headquarters:
(912) 882-4336

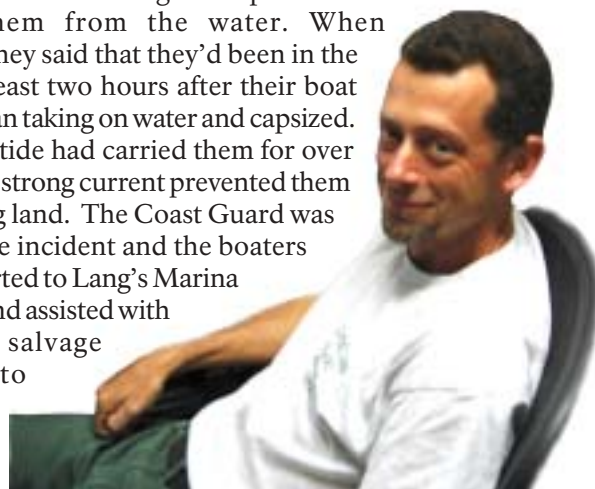
Editor In Chief:
Justin Helton
Administrative Assistant

Editorial Consultant:
Doug Hoffman
Wildlife Biologist

Staff Member Rescues Man & Son from Capsized Boat

By DOUG HOFFMAN

On the morning of Monday, August 18th, 2008, park biologist Doug Hoffman discovered a capsized fishing boat while en route from the island to the park’s main office in St. Marys. A man and his pre-teenaged son were found approximately 500 yards from their sinking vessel. The son was wearing a lifejacket, but his father did not have one and was beginning to experience severe leg cramps. Hoffman retrieved them from the water. When questioned, they said that they’d been in the water for at least two hours after their boat suddenly began taking on water and capsized. An incoming tide had carried them for over a mile and the strong current prevented them from reaching land. The Coast Guard was notified of the incident and the boaters were transported to Lang’s Marina in St. Marys and assisted with locating a salvage company to retrieve their boat.



Hints from Helton

Turn Off Computers

By ELIZABETH NEWELL

Three information technology companies have joined to encourage federal employees and others to save energy by turning off their electronic equipment in the evening before they head home.

“It sends the message that individual actions people take really make a difference in our footprint,” Martin said. “From a federal government perspective there’s a real opportunity for them to take the lead and set a good example and drive procurement policies and, of course, legislation and regulations to help encourage energy-efficient practices.”

While turning off electronics seems like a minor step, supporters of the initiative say it’s one of many measures that can make a difference. The companies estimate that if 1 percent of the government’s 1.8 million civilian employees powered down their equipment, the government would save more than \$23,000 daily.

John Johnson, assistant commissioner for integrated tech services at the General Services Administration’s Federal Acquisition Service, said GSA is pursuing opportunities to go green through strategic initiatives, green data centers and procurement policies.

“In the meantime we can all save energy by powering down that equipment that’s not being used,” Johnson said. “The government is a very large energy consumer to the tune of about \$480 million a year from IT equipment. If we exercised discipline to power down when not being used it can help contribute.”

By promoting both individual responsibility and taking advantage of technology solutions, agencies expect to both save money and make their mark as environmental leaders.

Quote Corner

“If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.”

-John Quincy Adams

Voting Policy

By JULIE MEEKS

There is a longstanding Government policy of granting employees limited time off work to vote. Typically, polling places throughout the United States are open for extended periods of time in a Presidential election such as the one on November 4, 2008. Therefore, excused absence should rarely be needed.

Generally, where the polls are not open at least three hours before or after an employee’s regular work hours, an agency may grant a limited amount of excused absence that will permit the employee to report to work up to three hours after the polls open or leave work up to three hours after the polls close, whichever requires the lesser amount of time off. For example, if an employee is scheduled to work from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and the employee’s polling place is open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., the employee should not be granted excused absence for voting, since the employee would still have at least three hours after the end of his/her work schedule to vote.

However, if an employee is scheduled to work from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and the employee’s polling place is open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., the employee may be granted ½ hour of excused absence from 4:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., if requested. If absentee ballots are not permitted, the agency may also grant excused absence in circumstances where the employee’s voting place is beyond normal commuting distance.



Our Division is working toward closing fiscal year 08 with our budget balanced, leaving each account with a zero balance. We appreciate the cooperation of all of our employees and all indications point toward a perfect closing on September 30

Since the last edition of the *Mullet Wrapper*, Acting Superintendent **Tim Stone** has returned to manage both of his parks and Acting Superintendent **Charlie Fenwick** from Fort Pulaski arrived on August 18.

Laurie Chestnut from the Contracting Office in the Southeast Region has continued to hang in with us throughout FY2008 and process many of our contracts – hooray for Laurie !!! Kudos also to **D. Jean Clark**, Chief of Contracting at SERO for her support this year, as well.

Each year our annual leave year is based on the calendar year as opposed to the fiscal year. For CY 2008, the leave year will end on January 5, 2009. So, now is the time to make certain you have your SF-71's completed and signed by your supervisor for any *Use or Lose Leave* you might have. I recently sent a note to each employee who has *Use or Lose Leave*, indicating the hours you have available. Please be certain to always track your leave (both sick and annual) by reviewing your Leave and Earning Statements each and every pay period.

We used an Emergency Hire Authority to bring on **Greg Bordenkircher**, **Rodney Collins** and **Kelly Kennard** to work on the Main Road Project this summer for two months.

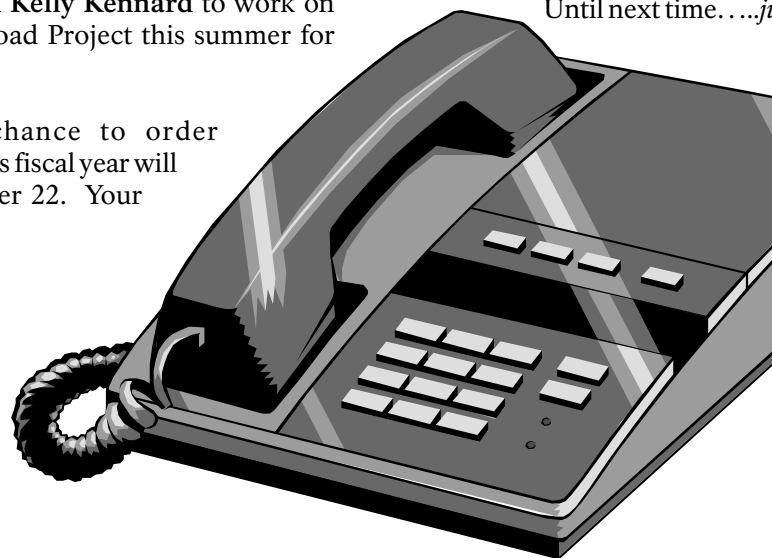
The last chance to order uniforms this fiscal year will be September 22. Your

order must be placed on the uniform web site: www.vfsolutions.com/lma

As we prepare for transition to the NEW JPMorgan Chase charge card, it is imperative that you have confirmed receipt/activated your current Bank of America credit card. A formal re-application process will not be required for most card holders. All active card holders names will be submitted to JPMorgan and a new card re-issued automatically. However, cardholders whose charge cards have been suspended or cancelled as of October 20, 2008, will not automatically receive a new charge card and will be required to pay all outstanding balances and return to a zero balance before a new card is obtained. At that time, you will need to re-apply and pass a mandatory credit worthiness evaluation before a card is issued by JPMorgan. No action will be required if you have already activated your credit card and your account is in good standing.

According to OPM, no major changes are expected in the FEHB coverage. OPM has encouraged FEHB carriers to enhance hearing benefits for adults as well as offering pilot programs for Medicare-eligible annuitants within existing options. However, the annual announcement of premiums and plan offerings in FEHB for the upcoming calendar plan year is likely to be announced within the coming weeks. The announcement will be made well in advance of the opportunity to join the program or to change coverage, which occurs during the annual open season that this year will run November 10-December 8.

Until next time.*julie*



Farewell From Superintendent Stone

By **TIM STONE**

After spending almost 100 days as acting park superintendent of Cumberland Island National Seashore I can say without hesitation that it is one of our country's great National Parks, the combination of the unique natural resources and tremendous history and architecture, spanning the centuries. It is truly deserving of National Park status.

I started my National Park Service career in 1976 as a 22 year old fireguard on a helitack fire suppression crew at Yellowstone National Park, the world's first national park that was established in 1872. I was in awe of the traditions, the dedication, pride and integrity of the rangers I worked with. My district ranger had worked for 30 years in Yellowstone; to many he was as legendary and predictable as Old Faithful geyser. He always ended his instructions to us with the admonishment to "do good and avoid evil" – and a final instruction to me when he dropped me off at the trailhead to begin my 10 day backcountry patrol – "survive".

Over the past 32 years and 10 different park areas there has been one constant wherever I worked; that we were a thin green line that had a great responsibility to protect the resources, and to help the visiting public understand and enjoy those irreplaceable resources that collectively represent the great fabric and history of our country. And to make sure that those resources, placed in our stewardship, were passed on to the next generation in better condition than we found them.

We all see things through our own eyes and times, it is often difficult to see the long view, how it was before and how it will be in the future. Over the years I hope that I have gotten better at making decisions that are tempered by and reflect a well reasoned stewardship based on laws, policies and the "right thing to do". One of the first lessons I learned in Yellowstone was that even though the park has been there for over 100 years, many of the local residents had a strong dislike for the park and park service, for whatever their reasons. This scenario has been played out wherever I have been, whether it is a bush village in arctic Alaska or small historical park in Pennsylvania. Making decisions that reflect national interests that may be very much at odds with some local opinions is difficult, but in the end I hoped that it was better to be respected than liked.

It has been an "interesting" 100 days – events that were set in motion long before I arrived needed to be acted upon, decisions made and consequences dealt with. One can only hope that the right decisions were made. Of the several lightning strikes on the island during those 100 days one turned into a raging wildfire, headed towards several island residences and some of the most historical structures. Nature will take her course, and fortunately she stopped short of those houses. I can say with a certainty that my time at Cumberland Island National Seashore would have been very different if that fire hadn't stopped where it did.

I told the staff when I left Cut Fire, not because I care of the business at and others that came worked with back service that I know.

I want to thank functional from

that the most enjoyable experience during my short time here was the South enjoy wildfires, but because the staff worked together collectively to take hand. It was good fun for me to work with the Georgia Forestry Commission to help suppress that fire, it took me back to my early days and the people I then, focused and prepared to put a fire out and do it well. That is the park

the staff of Cumberland Island National Seashore for keeping the park and running on schedule. Keeping the operation running is no small feat, greeting visitors, keeping the facilities, boats and vehicles in good order, protecting the turtle migration and other natural resources, repairing and restoring the large number of historic structures and ensuring that the visiting public and island residents are safe and the resources are protected from poachers and other encroachment - and made exponentially more complicated by being on an island.

With that, I want to thank all for their support and friendship.



St. Marys Tour of Homes



The Bachlott House will be featured in the St. Marys Tour of Homes this year, scheduled to be held on December 13, 2008.

Bachlott Landscaping

By DOUG HOFFMAN

Thanks to Camden County High School's horticulture class, the Bachlott House received a landscape improvement last spring. At the end of the school year, Karyn Chester's class spent a day creating a flower bed complete with brick border in front of the historic building. Annual and perennial flowers left from the school's plant sale were used to add a little color to the landscape.



Maintenance Man

By JULIE MEEKS



Joseph "Jody" Barnes

Meet Jody Barnes who is working with us for thirty days this summer. Jody is a long time Camden County resident and graduated from Camden County High School. He is very familiar with Cumberland Island and has previously worked for Contractors on island projects. Welcome Jody!!

Mainland Museum

By CARL DAVID

The Museum Project is almost complete. The damaged material, due to Tropical Storm Tammy, in 2005, has been replaced. The bottom two feet of sheetrock was replaced throughout the buildings lower floor and the carpeting was also replaced. The interior walls were all painted, and the roof has been replaced. The air conditioner duct remains to be cleaned and we should then be done. Thanks to everyone for their patience while the museum was torn apart.



Grand Avenue

By CARL DAVID



The Main Road Project is still progressing. The maintenance staff was increased by three temporary hires, to assist with hauling fill, taken from the south end spoil area. We have dumped approximately 200 dump truck loads of fill along different parts of the main. The initial focus was to raise the road bed in the low lying sections, beginning at the southern end of the island and proceeding north. The project will continue through September. Road signs are being placed on the roadside daily, to alert all vehicle traffic and day visitors of the equipment on the roadway. Please use caution in these areas and pass the word on to all.

Plum Orchard

By CARL DAVID



This phase of work on Plum Orchard Mansion is now completed. The work consisted of exterior repairs, structural repairs, interior restoration of historic finishes, accessibility upgrades, installation of a fire protection system and a building ventilation system, electrical system upgrade and lead based paint abatement.

The work is progressing now on the North Elevation, this phase is expected to be completed by mid-December 2008. Work will consist of repair, prep, and paint all windows on the north side of the mansion as well as painting the exterior.

Turtle Tech News

By DOUG HOFFMAN



Cumberland Island's sea turtle program utilizes 3 to 4 Student Conservation Association interns each year to conduct the 6-month monitoring program. Casey Augeri, our first turtle tech of the season, completed her internship in August. Kristin Williams started the season with Casey in May and will be serving two 12-week internships with us this summer. A Florida native, Kristin received a degree in biology from Florida Gulf Coast University. Her interests include ecological restoration, animal care, and wildlife management. She plans on attending vet school in 2009. Kristin has extensive SCUBA diving and snorkeling experience and is a certified rescue diver. Our third, and final, turtle tech of the season arrived on August 18th. Emily Cook will be assisting the sea turtle project through its completion in late October. Emily, a Maine native, is no stranger to the southeast coast. She received a degree in Environmental Studies from Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida. Some of her main interests include educating the public on issues relative to threatened and endangered species and marine environments. Emily's studies have carried her around

the globe including London, Greece, Micronesia, New Zealand, and Madagascar. She states that she is excited to be a part of the Cumberland Island sea turtle program. Please welcome her to the park when you see her.



Turtle Techs Kristin Williams and Emily Cook

New Acting Superintendent

A native of Leonardtown, Maryland, Charlie began his avocation with the National Park Service in 1969, when as a 9-year-old visitor he experienced the magic of Yellowstone National Park for the first time. It was during this time, as a young man and visiting many of the National Parks with his family, that he knew he would one day become a part of the National Park Service.



Charlie Fenwick

Charlie began his National Park Service career in 1982 at Gulf Islands NS, as a seasonal park ranger. Positions of increasing complexity and responsibility at seven additional parks, including Chesapeake and Ohio Canal NHP, the National Mall, Fort

Point NHS in the Golden Gate NRA, National Capital Region, Antietam NB and Independence NHP, brought Charlie to his First Superintendency at, De Soto National Memorial where he was assigned from 2001 till 2006. He received his appointment as Superintendent of Fort Pulaski National Monument in January of 2006 and is a 24 year veteran of the National Park Service.

He is the 2004 recipient of the Southeast Region’s “Keeper of the Light Award” for excellence in Interpretive Media. He is the 2006 recipient the Herbert E. Kahler Award for having the outstanding performance by a bookstore run by *Eastern National*, the non-profit partner of the National Park Service. The Savannah Morning News named him one of “Savannah’s 2007 People of Impact.” He is a graduate of Frostburg State College in Frostburg, Maryland with a BA degree and double major in History and Political Science. Fort Pulaski is the ninth park for Fenwick and Eileen, his wife of 18 years. They have two boys, Devin age 13 and Connor age 12. They reside in Richmond Hill, GA.

Don’t Get “Bugged” By Mosquitoes and Ticks!

By JUSTIN HELTON

- * Wear light-colored clothing so that ticks can be seen easily and removed.
- * Weather permitting, wear long pants, a long sleeved shirt with tight-fitting cuffs, and a hat when hiking, camping, or visiting tick-infested areas, or when mosquitoes are biting.
- * Tuck pants into socks and shirt into pants, and wear a hat. Pull long hair back.
- * When hiking, walk in the center of the trail to avoid over-hanging grasses, weeds, and brush.
- * Use insect repellant with DEET on exposed skin and products containing permethrin on clothes. Follow label directions. Do not use products that contain more than 10% DEET on children, or more than 30% DEET on adults. Consult a physician before using DEET on infants or pregnant women. Wash treated skin when mosquito and tick exposure has ended.
- * Do tick checks frequently during the day and a full body tick check at the end of the day. Use a mirror and check behind ears, behind knees, underarms, and groin. Ask someone to help you check your back and scalp. Take a shower and wash your hair before going to bed.

- * Do not sit directly on the ground - use a blanket or towel.
- * Remove excess brush and keep grass mowed around the house.
- * Ask your veterinarian about the West Nile vaccine for horses and for suggestions about how to protect your pets against mosquitoes and ticks. Do not allow outdoor pets on furniture or bedding.



A Good Safety Attitude

By SAFETY/SMART!



You have been receiving advice about safety for years. You have listened to it, read it and watched television spots on it, but probably never thought about it much. You might even think, “Accidents can’t happen to me”.

Then your best friend, who is in a hurry to get out of the house, has a bad accident that costs her a leg. Everyone is impacted – especially you.

You can see what it means to your friend - physical pain, emotional shock, lost time. Things will be different. Physical therapy and rehabilitation are long and usually painful procedures with this type of injury.

In the aftermath, you notice your attitude has really changed. You make a point of staying alert to possible hazards. You

take the extra time to use special personal protective equipment (PPE) and safety procedures. You are more willing to listen to suggestions that might protect you.

So what exactly are the elements of a good safety attitude?

FOCUS

A good safety attitude means you focus on the task. How well are you concentrating on the job? If you have other things on your mind, you may be distracted. And if you are bored, an accidental slip is easy.

STRENGTH

No, this doesn’t mean muscle strength. What it means is the strength to do the right thing, even when you are under pressure to take shortcuts. A good safety attitude means you have the strength to stick with the procedures.

TIME

A good safety attitude means taking the time to do things correctly and using the right PPE. Is saving a few minutes worth a lifelong injury? If you add up the life costs due to injuries, it is obvious that it is cheaper to do the job the right way the first time.

RESPONSIBILITY

If you care about yourself and your co-workers, you will take responsibility even when a task “isn’t my job”. A good safety attitude means thinking of yourself as part of the team.

RISK

We are all at risk. But you can weigh the risks of performing a job a certain way. A one in a thousand risk is not worth the possible cost. A good safety attitude means being smart and avoid taking unnecessary risks. *Having a good safety attitude affects everyone around you. Your home life and relations with others will be positively influenced.*

Upcoming Events

Get ready to celebrate, Island style!

Sept. 27th: Fee Free Day and Special Ranger Programs on the top of the hour from 10am - 4pm. Check at the Sea Camp Ranger Station for program listings.

Sept. 28th: Fee Free Day honoring newly naturalized citizens. Special Ranger Programs will be held on the top of the hour from 10am - 4pm. Check at the Sea Camp Ranger Station for program listings.

Dec. 10th: 3rd Annual Christmas Crafts held at the YCC Kitchen on the Island from 10 am – 2 pm. Enjoy mulled cider, goodies for the tummy and lots of creative fun while you make your very own island creations to adorn your home or tree.

Dec. 14th: “Historic Holidays” Program – Come see Plum Orchard decorated for the holidays during the months of November and December, then make plans to enjoy an extra special Plum Tour on Dec 14th in celebration of the holidays of old.

Georgia’s Sea Turtle Season Flourishes Despite Storms

By DOUG HOFFMAN



Loggerhead Sea Turtle

Despite the impacts of tropical storm Fay, the Georgia Coast experienced a record number of nests this season. The previous nest record was 1,504 nests recorded in 2003. The 2008 season saw a total of 1,640 nests, a sign that the loggerhead population may be on a slight increase. Additional good news related to this was a second year of reduced stranding numbers (dead, sick, or injured sea turtles). While it appears that a considerable number of nests were affected by the storm, it is important to remember that sea turtles have evolved with natural events throughout their life history. The actual effects of this storm will likely be minimal when considering the thousands of eggs an adult female is capable of producing during her years of reproductive activity.

Kudos Korner

Dear Sir:

I want to thank the Park Service for all their efforts to contain the recent fire on Cumberland. All uncontrolled fires are to be dreaded. One of natural origin in a wilderness seems almost impossible to control. The Park personnel and the firefighters who were called in to assist in fighting the fire are to be commended for their efforts. A job well done!

As one of those persons who has Retained Rights, I thank you for the excellent job in containing the fire and appreciate your work in protecting the buildings and clearing the roads.

I would appreciate it if you would relay my thanks and appreciation to all who were involved in participating in every effort to control the fire.

Sincerely,

Virginia O. Horton

Virginia O. Horton



RANGER DIVISION

By DENNIS PARSONS

Preparedness

What does it take to keep a quickly evolving incident from spiraling out of control into chaos? Preparedness... Many incidents, whether they are a medical emergency, natural disaster or plane crash, can overwhelm resources if not properly planned for. Preplanning gives park staff time to work through an incident and plan and practice the response. This all adds up to being prepared.

Preparing for the numerous and varied incidents CUIS sees each year requires involvement by all park staff. Writing plans, purchasing equipment and supplies, maintaining equipment in good working order, and training are important elements to being prepared.

This year Cumberland Island National Seashore has seen four wildland fires, Tropical Storm Fay and several medical incidents.

Wildland fires can quickly outgrow the resources of CUIS making agreements such as the Tri-Agency Agreement so important. These agreements allow the quick transfer of resources between agencies: such as Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, Osceola National Forest and Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve. Representatives from each agency meet annually, to discuss previous incidents, predictions for future fire activity, update contact information and tour facilities. Each year the agreement gets stronger as witnessed by the assistance CUIS received from numerous agencies, during the Lost Fire and South Cut Fire.

Tropical Storm Fay kept everyone guessing with its slow and often changing path. Camden Emergency Management Agency conducted multi-agency meetings beginning well before Fay was predicted to arrive. The information from these meetings was instrumental in the Park’s decision to close operations. The Park was prepared for hurricane season which lead to a quick and efficient park closure. After Fay passed CUIS the park was able to open a safe park to visitors after a very short time. Again, having equipment in good working order and a trained staff made removing the large number of down trees preceded quickly and safely.

Park staff is continually training to respond to medical incidents. “Tailgate” training sessions are held during the winter to prepare everyone for the busy spring and summer season. The park recently updated and increased its medical response supplies with three new EMT kits with oxygen, several First Responder kits, three office wall mounted kits and refill supplies. While the focus is on being proactive with visitor and employee safety, the park also prepares for unexpected for emergency medical incidents.

Being prepared requires knowing what to do (training), when to do it (planning), how to do it (practice) and having quality equipment to do it safely. Cumberland Island National Seashore and its employees are planning, training, and practicing to be prepared for what comes our way.

Managed Hunts

Cumberland Island National Seashore (CUIS) is again hosting six hunts during the 2008-2009 Season. The news for this year is registration for the hunts has gone on-line.

2008-2009 Hunt Schedule

TYPE	DATE
Archery	Oct. 20-22
Primitive Weapon	Nov. 3-5
Primitive Weapon	Dec. 1-3
Adult/Child	Dec. 15-17
Feral Hogs, Modern Weapons	Jan 5-7
Feral Hogs, Modern Weapons	Jan 19-21

Registration for the hunts has changed from the mail in lottery registration to “first come, first served” on-line registration. The on-line registration is found at www.pay.gov then search under “Cumberland”. At this site you are able to register and pay using your credit card or check. The response from hunters has been very positive. If you have any questions on the hunt visit the parks web site at www.nps.gov/cuis or call 912-882-4336-254.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Sea Turtle Nests Impacted By Tropical Storm Fay

By DOUG HOFFMAN



The arrival of tropical storm Fay was an unwelcome event on the Georgia and Florida coasts. The storm hit the coast during the peak of hatching activity from earlier-deposited sea turtle nests. While it is believed that thousands of loggerhead and green sea turtle nests may have been lost in Florida to storm surges and tidal washovers, Cumberland's nests did not escape the impacts either. Cumberland had 241 nests remaining at the time the storm arrived on August 20th. An assessment conducted after the storm revealed that 185 nests had been washed over by extremely high tides and 3 nests had been washed out completely. All females had completed nesting activity earlier in the month and the turtle techs are tasked with monitoring nests through the hatching period. The overall hatch success of our nests this year will likely be low due to this storm. The previous two seasons, being storm-free, boasted hatching successes of over 80%.

South Cut Fire Update

By DOUG HOFFMAN



July 2, 2008

Present

The June/July South Cut Fire burned hot enough in several areas to remove vegetation and ground litter and expose bare soil. The island's vegetation communities are adapted to fire events and are already showing signs of life. The photo on the left was taken along North Cut Road several days after the fire, showing the complete absence of vegetation. The photo on the right was taken two months after and shows that natural regeneration is taking place at its normal pace.

Dungeness Lower Gardens Restoration

By JOHN FRY



Before

Over three sweltering weeks in July and August a Student Conservation Association, High School Crew ground it out in the jungle that had overtaken the eastern half of the Lower Gardens at Dungeness. Their task was to remove the nearly two acres of high, dense vegetation that had become well established and restore the open character of the Lower Gardens that was present during the Carnegie period. The crew consisted of two adult crew leaders and six high school students from as far away as California, Michigan, Philadelphia, and New Hampshire. The Park's Maintenance and Resource Management personnel also provided much needed support. As the before and after photos (above, below) illustrate the project was very successful in opening the area back up and restoring sight lines and vistas that have not been seen in decades. Work still remains in cleaning the area up to achieve the desired condition and stabilizing the site to where it can be maintained for years to come. The Lower Gardens work is the first step in a phased approach to restoring multiple components of the Dungeness Historic Landscape over the next five years.



After

Maintenance Division

By CARL DAVID

Where is the Channel?

In early August, Dave Casey was able to get in touch with the Coast Guard about removing a red channel marker #10, which has been on the beach for a couple of years. Since the initial conversation, and due to Tropical Storm Fay, we have now accumulated two more markers. A green #3 channel marker and a mooring buoy. The #10 buoy and the mooring buoy are just north of Little Greyfield crossing and the #3 marker is north of North Cut Road. We will keep you informed with the removal process to avoid and problems and safety concerns.

New Hats!

This summer, we were able to put new roofs put on four of our structures. The White Cottage, Seacamp Visitors Center, Seacamp Restroom and storage room and Davis House. The new roofs should solve many of our rainy day problems.



Sea Camp Camground Restrooms

Ruins Stabilized

The Dungeness Ruins Stabilization Project is now complete. The project began with a large vegetation clean up to allow access. Steel beams were bolted to various corners of the structure to prevent further collapse of the exterior walls and the chimneys were repointed. The steel, at the entrances on the east and west sides, was cleaned and painted and some wood was replaced at various lentils. This project will enhance the visitors experience and allow them to be able to see the ruins for years to come.



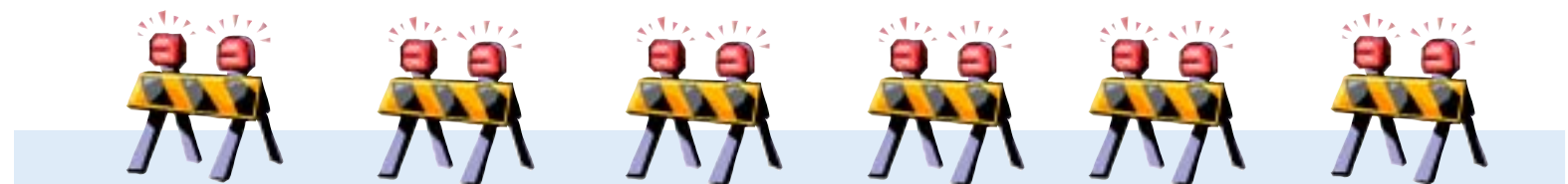
Stabalized Ruins

Stafford Mansion

Stafford Mansion Exterior Project is still ongoing. There was a little setback due to tropical storm Fay but everything looks great. The project consists of exterior painting of the walls, windows and doors, chimney repair and some roof work. New copper barrel screens will be installed on the dormers. Isn't it amazing what a little facelift will do!?



Stafford Mansion



VOLUNTEER!

By GINGER HOLLINGSWORTH-COX

Welcome Aboard



Bill and Ann LaFevre

We welcome returning volunteers, Bill and Ann LaFevre, from Charleston, SC. They have been married for 48 years and have two children and one grandchild. The couple made their first trip to Cumberland Island in 1980 as day trippers while camping at Crooked River State Park. Enamored by their experience they camped twice yearly at Sea Camp for “too many years to remember”. The LaFevre’s then became volunteers for many seasons after that. They recall staying at Sea Camp apartment, and South Cabin where Bill checked in campers, did afternoon programs, and assisted with managed hunts, while Ann conducted Dungeness tours. Fond memories include meeting many island residents and staff like Rene Noe, who told them where to find lighter knot wood for fires, bringing teens from the Georgia Sheriff Boys Ranch to experience adult supported hunting opportunities, and a treasured experience of watching a Loggerhead Sea Turtle (from a respectful distance of course) lay her eggs in the protected sands of the island. They bring a wealth of experience to the island, in fact Bill is a registered Tour Guide with the City of Charleston and Ann is a retired Tour Guide from Magnolia Plantation. Currently they are living at Plum Orchard in one of the service apartments where they assist in grounds and buildings maintenance, bimonthly house tours, and developing enhanced opportunities for visitors to understand the story and significance of this magnificent example of the life and times of the “gilded age”.

Thanks Carolyn!

Volunteer Carolyn Chandler has been a real blessing this spring and summer as she hails from Atlanta Georgia to assist in visitor services. Carolyn’s lovely smile graced everything she did while greeting day trippers, conducting summer craft programs, creating and presenting dockside programs and Dungeness tours, assisting with administrative tasks related to volunteer program, keeping the ranger station and campgrounds spiffy, artfully displaying weather info and always looking for more efficient engaging ways to get things done. She eagerly made improvements and keep lines of communication open and was quite the hit with island residents and visitors alike. Highlights of her experience on the island were numerous including ride in the EMS chopper her first week here, invitations to dinner on sailboats, crazy hectic days of spring campers, volunteer work groups and programs, sunsets and cold brew at SC dock, the “thunder wagon” she drove (so called because of the great roar it emitted as she traveled to and from on her duties) “great conversations with locals, visitors, park staff, and even girl scouts who “watched the sunset with me because they said I was cool”. Carolyn also reflects that she learned so much in fact she learned that “she actually liked history.” “When history is right in your lap and you are living in the place and talking with descendents of history...wow, what a difference.” Many thanks Carolyn...you are welcome back anytime.



Carolyn conducts a children's craft session on the island.

Summer Intern Learns The Ropes

Marshall University Intern Jeremy Cochenour assists with Turtle Education at the Kids in College program sponsored by Georgia Coastal Community College. Going to class takes on a whole new meaning for Jeremy Cochenour who recently earned 12 college credits toward his degree in Parks and Recreation Management. Mr. Cochenour is a student at Marshall University in West Virginia, and is now going on to earn his masters degree. Through a partnership agreement with



Jeremy Cochenour

Cumberland Island National Seashore, students have an opportunity to immerse themselves literally “in the field”. During his 12 week internship he worked in nearly every division and completed a variety of projects such as creating an archeology exhibit at Ice House Museum, and conducting dockside programs and Dungeness tours. In addition, he completed a variety of academic assignments such as writing a term paper covering all aspects of NPS and park operations and presenting his internship experience to the college review board (he earned an A for his presentation Congratulations!) He also assisted with education and outreach programs, provided logistics support for volunteer groups and fire incidents, assisted turtle techs with sea turtle monitoring, worked on boats, bikes, and numerous other tasks. Jeremy could always be counted on to be the “go to guy” to get things done. All together internship programs benefit both the park and the student and build a foundation of stewardship and understanding for the National Park Service as both a visitor and hopefully as a potential future employee. Jeremy reflects on his time at Cumberland as “intense and interesting”, he “learned so much about how complex park operations are, and that what we do is important so that visitors know why we need to protect these special places.” When asked what advice he would give to a future interns “its an island....no stores, no movie theatres, no pizza places...basically you should be prepared to feel isolated...but the experience is definitely worth it....even staying in the scary dorms by yourself.” The park and staff wish Jeremy much success in his endeavors, and many thanks for his contributions.

Volunteer Contributions Have Doubled!

To date this fiscal year 18 volunteer groups logged nearly 6000 hours in volunteer service. Numerous colleges, youth groups, boys and girl scouts, church groups, and individuals are committed to preserving and protecting the resources in this and other National Parks. These groups provide much needed maintenance, trail restoration, beach clean-ups, historic preservation, trash and debris removal, minor maintenance, exhibit construction, etc. while having the opportunity to meet other work groups from across the country, and contribute to preservation and protection, and of course the biggest excitement to them is “Experiencing Cumberland Island”. One college crew said it was the number one alternative spring break destination for their school and they had to literally “camp out” in the parking lot to make the list for the Cumberland Island trip.

